United Church of Christ

2015 Southern Region Women's Retreat

Come Celebrate the LORD of the DANCE!

October 16-18, 2015

Sumatanga Conference Center, Gallant AL

(www.sumatanga.org)

RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

Program:

- Scripture: Psalm 150
- Worship, morning watch devotions, and vesper services will celebrate the Lord of the Dance
- Music leadership will be from C. A. Black, Flowood MS, Safe Harbor Family Church UCC
- Danceshops (replacing workshops) will seek to inspire and involve participants in groups of about 20: Rising from the Ashes, New Members: Moving Forward, Practicing Intimacy with God, Dancing with the Stranger, Making a Joyful Move, Stories in Black and White, Caring for Ourselves, Dancing Liturgically, and more
- Service Project: "Literacy: Learning through Rhythm" with Eunice Carrasco-Hill from Franklinton Center at Bricks. Gather to sort and box books brought for Birmingham preschool.
- Sunday Morning Communion Worship led by Rev. June Boutwell, Designated Conference Minister, Southeast Conference

Facility:

- Sumatanga Conference Retreat Center details are featured at www.sumatanga.org
- Wireless internet is available in several places throughout the Retreat Center plus Eva Walker building.
- Limited Verizon and Sprint Cell service is available in the Main Office; general cell phone coverage is minimal. Buildings are one level except McKinney-Atkins which has an elevator.
- Five 'houses' provide a total of 62 rooms which include 2 full beds, private bathroom, linens and towels. (No pets or alcohol are allowed on site. No smoking in any building.)
- Many rooms have a telephone and all long distance is complimentary. A TV is in the Registration area.
- Transportation between buildings to be available via golf cart for those appreciating assistance.

Bring:

- *Books, new and gently used, for Birmingham's "Reading Changes Lives" literacy initiative
- *Donations of new and gently used items for the Silent Auction; proceeds go towards 2017 retreat/conference
- A Sunday offering for UCC OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission) www.ucc.org/ocwm
- Shopping resources for Fair Trade/SERVV items provided by Melissa Kendrick, Sojourns, Birmingham.

Activities:

- Hospitality. Refreshments and comfortable gathering places will be intentionally hosted.
- Community Building will be purposeful during some of the meals.
- Displays will be set up in the passageway between meeting space and dining hall in McKinney-Atkins.
- Fair Trade/SERVV items will be available for purchase on Saturday.
- Saturday Afternoon will have on campus informal gathering options like labyrinth walking, spiritual chit-chat, coffee clatch, personal prayer time, napping, TV in hospitality area and more.
- Saturday Night entertainment will be "Karaoke Night" and the Silent Auction finale.

Travel:

- If traveling by car, GPS address is 3616 Sumatanga Road, Gallant, Alabama, 35972
- If traveling by air, please use Birmingham Airport for arrival & departures. Transportation to and from the airport is available; allow 1.5 hours travel time from Birmingham Airport to Sumatanga.
- Thursday night stays (includes meals) are available through the registrar.
- Bus drivers and each participant bringing a non-participating guest will be in Eva Walker lodge. Guest fee is $125 per person for overnights and meals.

*once you submit your registration, a confirmation communication will include details about:

- check-in details, golf cart rides
- books to bring for literacy, fair trade shopping options for payment
- free dance options, ideas and reach out for leaders
- silent auction explanation and ideas
- airport transportation; fair trade shopping options for payment

Danceshops

Saturday, 10 am – 11:30

1. "Rising from the Ashes" – Be transformed and dance through adversity, regardless of how life debilitating the struggle seems.
   Facilitated by: Dian Griffin Jackson
2. "Stories in Black and White" – This danceshop will generate conversation around justice issues of race.
   Facilitated by: Glenna Shepherd and Patricia Shropshire
3. "Dancing Liturgically" – Have you ever felt like dancing in praise and adoration of God?
   Facilitated by: Rebecca Kilmer and Jean Ring
4. "Practicing Intimacy with God" – Are you longing for a deepening relationship with the divine?
   Facilitated by: Clara Benson
5. "Dancing with the Stranger" – Most faith communities claim they are welcoming…
   Facilitated by: Jo Hudson
6. "Holy Humor"
   Facilitated by: Debbie Douglas

Saturday, 1:30 pm – 3 pm

7. "Learning to Heal Ourselves" – Have you gone through loss of any kind like death, divorce, friendships, money?
   Facilitated by: Laverne Goforth
8. "Immigration Justice" TBA
   Facilitated by: TBA
9. "Making a Joyful Move" – Feeling like you need to reconnect with God?
   Facilitated by: Jessica Kirkendoll
10. "Caring for Ourselves" – You have permission to ask for help. Learn how to do Chair Yoga and more.
    Facilitated by: Janeen Carrell
11. "New Members: Moving Forward" – So someone joined your church, now what?
    Facilitated by: Linda Brown and Dennie Kelley
12. "Boogeying with the Bible Babes"
    Facilitated by: June Boutwell

UCC 2015 SOUTHERN REGION WOMEN'S RETREAT SCHEDULE
AS OF APRIL 2015 (SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES)

Friday, October 16th

3:00 pm	*Registration and Hospitality*
6:00 pm	*Dinner*
7:00 pm	*Welcome, Music, Overview of Weekend, More Music*
8:00 pm	*Opening Worship*

Saturday, October 17th

7:30 am	*Morning Watch*
8:00 am	*Breakfast*
9:15 am	*Dance Off*
10:30 am	*Danceshops*
12:00 pm	*Lunch*
1:30 pm	*Danceshops*
3:00 pm	*Literacy Service Project*
3:00 pm	*Free Dance*
6:00 pm	*Dinner*
7:30 pm	*Vesper Worship*
8:30 pm	*Silent Auction*
8:45 pm	*Karaoke*

Sunday, October 18th

7:30 am	*Morning Watch*
8:00 am	*Breakfast*
9:15 am	*Conference Gatherings*
9:45 am	*Closing Worship with Communion*
11:00 am	*Check Out and Depart*

Questions? Suggestions? Need more information?

Coordinator, Community Building, Danceshops:
Mary Ruth 2015SRWCUCC@gmail.com
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Registrar:
Iris Burnell ikburnell@frontier.com
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Program, Music:
Leslie Etheredge leslieeth@yahoo.com
(205) 515-8741

Techie, Tshirts, Photographer:
Amber Kirkendoll ackirkendoll@gmail.com
(479) 461-4518

Worship, Menu:
Clara Benson revclara.ret@gmail.com
(570) 220-6596

Golf Carts:
Marsha Brown metrobro@bellsouth.net
(615) 582-9930

Hospitality:
Patricia Shropshire patricia.a.shropshire@vanderbilt.edu
(517) 256-7454

Literacy Service Project, Airport:
Nancy Sales Magoriannancy@yahoo.com
(205) 613-6569

Displays:
Charlotte Albert charlotte@spcucc.org
(512) 856-2717

Décor, Morning Watch:
Gwen Mitchell darcell.knight@gmail.com
(757) 610-0394

Silent Auction, Booklet:
Laverne Goforth programbooklets2015@gmail.com
(678) 481-3722

Funds Manager, Scholarship:
Ginny Nixon ggnixon@tnaccess.com, (931) 277- 3176

Collaborator/Advisor:
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